



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Raised Bill No. 637

LCO No. 2972

02972_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-66bb of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (c) (1) The State Board of Education shall review, annually, all
5 applications and grant charters [, provided for the period from July 1,
6 1997, to June 30, 1999, no more than twenty-four charters for charter
7 schools are granted and, on and after July 1, 1999] in accordance with
8 subsection (f) of this section. Except as provided in subdivision (2) of
9 this subsection, no state charter school [enrolls (1)] shall enroll (A) (i)
10 more than two hundred fifty students, or [(B)] (ii) in the case of a
11 kindergarten to grade eight, inclusive, school, more than three
12 hundred students, or [(2)] (B) twenty-five per cent of the enrollment of
13 the school district in which the state charter school is to be located,
14 whichever is less. On and after July 1, 2007, the State Board of
15 Education shall determine enrollment limits for each state charter
16 school. For each school year, the State Board of Education shall limit
17 the aggregate enrollment increase in all state charter schools to twenty

18 per cent of the total enrollment of all state charter schools for the prior
 19 year. The State Board of Education shall give preference to applicants
 20 for charter schools that will serve students who reside in a priority
 21 school district pursuant to section 10-266p, as amended, or in a district
 22 in which seventy-five per cent or more of the enrolled students are
 23 members of racial or ethnic minorities and to applicants for state
 24 charter schools that will be located at a work-site or that are
 25 institutions of higher education. In determining whether to grant a
 26 charter, the State Board of Education shall consider the effect of the
 27 proposed charter school on the reduction of racial, ethnic and
 28 economic isolation in the region in which it is to be located, [the
 29 regional distribution of charter schools in the state and the potential of
 30 over concentration of charter schools within a school district or in
 31 contiguous school districts] and give preference to charter school
 32 applicants that have a record or plan for raising academic
 33 achievement.

34 (2) For the 2006-2007 school year, the State Board of Education shall
 35 approve the enrollment of not fewer than four hundred forty-nine
 36 students in addition to the number of students permitted pursuant to
 37 subdivision (1) of this subsection, at state charter schools with initial
 38 charters approved on or before July 1, 2006. Not later than July 1, 2006,
 39 such schools shall submit plans concerning increased enrollment to the
 40 State Board of Education. The increased enrollment numbers per
 41 school shall be determined in accordance with such plans.

42 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-66ee of the 2006 supplement to
 43 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
 44 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2006*):

45 (c) (1) The state shall pay in accordance with this subsection, to the
 46 fiscal authority for a state charter school approved by the state board,
 47 [for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, seven thousand six hundred
 48 twenty-five dollars for each student enrolled in such school, and for
 49 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and for each fiscal year thereafter,

50 eight thousand dollars] for each student enrolled in such schools an
51 amount equal to the state-wide net current expenditures per student as
52 described in subdivision (3) of this subsection for the previous year
53 increased by the amount of the average annual increase in the state-
54 wide net current expenditures per student over the previous three
55 years, plus an amount that is the average of all state charter schools'
56 per student facilities expenditure for the previous year, as determined
57 by the Commissioner of Education on an annual basis, less an amount
58 determined by the Commissioner of Education on an annual basis to
59 be the average costs paid during the previous year on a state-wide
60 basis by local and regional boards of education for special education
61 costs in excess of the average per pupil educational costs of such
62 boards of education. Such payments shall be made as follows: Twenty-
63 five per cent of the amount not later than July fifteenth and September
64 fifteenth based on estimated student enrollment on May first, and
65 twenty-five per cent of the amount not later than January fifteenth and
66 the remaining amount not later than April fifteenth, each based on
67 student enrollment on October first. If, for any fiscal year, the total
68 amount appropriated for grants pursuant to this subdivision exceeds
69 [seven thousand two hundred fifty dollars per student] the per student
70 grant calculated pursuant to this subdivision, the amount of such
71 grants payable per student shall be increased proportionately. [For the
72 fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, such increase shall be limited to one
73 hundred ten dollars per student.] (2) In the case of a student identified
74 as requiring special education, the school district in which the student
75 resides shall: (A) Hold the planning and placement team meeting for
76 such student and shall invite representatives from the charter school to
77 participate in such meeting; and (B) pay the state charter school, on a
78 quarterly basis, an amount equal to the difference between the
79 reasonable cost of educating such student and the sum of the amount
80 received by the state charter school for such student pursuant to
81 subdivision (1) of this subsection and amounts received from other
82 state, federal, local or private sources calculated on a per pupil basis.
83 Such school district shall be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to

84 section 10-76g, as amended. The charter school a student requiring
 85 special education attends shall be responsible for ensuring that such
 86 student receives the services mandated by the student's individualized
 87 education program whether such services are provided by the charter
 88 school or by the school district in which the student resides. (3) For
 89 purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection, "net current
 90 expenditures per student" means the average of the net current
 91 expenditures of a town, as described in subdivision (3) of subsection
 92 (a) of section 10-261, divided by the number of resident students of a
 93 town, as described in subdivision (22) of section 10-262f of the 2006
 94 supplement to the general statutes. The "state-wide net current
 95 expenditures per student" means the average of the net current
 96 expenditures per student of all towns.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-66bb(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-66ee(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To allow for an increase in charter school enrollments for existing charter school and to provide for a new per student funding formula for charter schools.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]